



The Messenger



Chalfont United Methodist Church * 11 Meadowbrook Lane, Chalfont, PA 18914-2810
Phone: (215) 822-2807 * e mail: office@chalfontumc.org

December 2013

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?

Instead of our usual editorial we decided to let "you do the writing." For a brief moment our congregation jotted down their quickest and most basic thoughts about Christmas, and Pastor Barb couldn't have said it better. Chalfont United Methodist Church wishes you a joyful, loving and God-blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Family Gatherings - Joy in the birth of Christ - Musical celebration of Christ's coming - *The gift of time for reflection - Season of giving (Giving love, forgiveness, friendship to those in need)* - Birth of Our Savior - New hope, promise if we believe and live as Jesus we will have eternal life with the Lord - Utmost love, joy & happiness in Christ with family & friends - A gift to the world - *Each year now I take out the holiday tablecloth that had belonged to my grandparents and it reminds me of wonderful family gatherings of the past. And then we celebrate and make new memories!* - Renewal - Enjoying time with family & friends celebrating the birth of Jesus - Being with family, food, carols & festive decorations - Love, Joy, Family - Jesus Birthday - *My Savior, redeemer was born* - It is a time to spend with family, special meals, candlelight, great music and special friends. It is always filled with surprises and giving - Joy - **The celebration of Christ's Birth** - Worship - Family - Friends - Love - Peace - Giving - Fellowship - Family - *Christmas brings a chance to renew my own Christianity* - Love & family - Christmas means family getting together celebrating the Birth of Christ - *Loneliness* - Grateful - Blessed - *Family, Good Food & Remembrance of the birth of our savior* - It seems to renew my spirit & makes me happy - **Very simple... God's greatest gift to us... Giving us Jesus Christ your Son!** - Christmas is a time to celebrate Jesus' birth - *It is a time to be with family and count our blessings!* - The Birth of our Savior & a time of Giving - *We celebrate the birth of our Savior. We also spend the holiday with our family & grandchildren here and then we head for our other family & then head South to Florida for the winter months* - God, Family, Love - The birth of the baby Jesus, spending the day with family - **It brings into focus and reminds me that now we have the gift that will give us eternal life** - When God became man to help heal us and to save us from sin and give everlasting life - *Sharing the spirit and love of Christ with Family and Community* - The birth of our Savior - Time with family - Family! - *A time of Joy when families get together and reunite* - That Baby Jesus was born and that it is a time for my family get together - **It is the most wonderful time of the year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus** - It is busy but great - Celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior - Family time together - *Christmas is a time of warmth, light and love in the darkness of winter* - Remembering the birth of Christ and sharing it with friends and family - **God's new covenant** - Family, friends, good times, good food, and the birthday of Jesus - *Baby Jesus is born!* - In six words: Baby, Joy, Love, Faith, Hope, everlasting - The birthday of Christ, being together with family, peace - Giving, celebration, family - **The birth of Our Blessed Savior who died for our sins** - We celebrate this event annually in remembrance of the birth of God's son - *God's best gift to the world* - A peaceful time with our family. We do not make ourselves "crazy" for the holidays - **We try to keep the "Christ" in Christmas** and *(from the children)* It's Jesus' birthday - God's love - We worship God - Giving - Being thankful - God's birthday - Jesus - God's birthday and *(of course)* - Toys, Candy.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In Remembrance: On November 3rd (*All Saints Day*) we remembered the following who died this past year: **Ruth Moyer, Ruthie Dauber, Stuart Duff, John Sunderland, Dottie Hullstrung, Fred Cumberbatch, Eleanor Dayton, Jean McGill and Florence Rice.**

Address change: Ester Lerch's new address is: 4 Viburnum Cluster, Doylestown, PA 18901.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your gift of \$60.00 for the Moldova Children's School, which helps the neediest children at the orphanage and provides necessary items for their school.

Thank you from Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County for the 3 filled Welcome Baskets. Your thoughtfulness made the dedication ceremony that much more special.

ROAST BEEF DINNER – Thank you to everyone who shopped, roasted beef, did food prep, cooked, baked, did room setup, sold tickets, served, worked in the baked goods area, handled take-out, washed, cleared the tables, cleaned up and tore down the room for the Roast Beef Dinner. It takes a community to succeed and do it successfully. We sold over 164 tickets and made a profit of about \$1300.00 for the Trustees. **A special THANK YOU goes out to a group of our Boy Scouts for serving dinner and to a group of our Girl Scouts for serving the desserts.** Your help was greatly appreciated by all. *Special Note: A very grateful thank you goes to Jerry Lomas for performing the Heimlich maneuver on one of the dinner guests.*

TOYS FOR TOTS

We will be collecting new unwrapped toys to be donated to the Toys for Tots program. The toys should be suitable for infants and children through the age of 16.

The donation box is in the Family Life Center. The last drop-off date is Friday, December 13.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER

The Music Department at CUMC is growing by leaps and bounds! But, we're running a bit short on robes and copies of music.

There's also a very exciting Christmas program on the way (more info about that soon!) We need your help to keep growing. There will be a change jar located in the Narthex throughout November - any little amount is very much appreciated!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

"Calling all bakers"

UMW COOKIE SALE

Saturday, December 14

Donations of Christmas cookies can be dropped off at the church on Friday night between 6:00 and 8:00 PM on Dec 13th. Please do not use peanut butter and no soft bar cookies. Seasonal cookies are especially welcome.

To purchase these holiday cookies, see the order form in the church bulletin. *The form can be given to Gail Schnell, placed in the offering plate, or can be put in the church office.*

Help is also needed to package the cookies on Saturday morning, December 14th from 8:00 to 9:00 AM.

MITTEN TREE:

The Mitten Tree will be in the Narthex to collect donations of mitten, hats and scarves to be given to the Ann Silverman Health Clinic at Doylestown Hospital. The items will be given to the families who come into the clinic for care.

An Invitation:

All ladies of the church are welcome to come and join in at our meeting. Come and enjoy the fellowship with other Christian women.

On Saturday, January 18 we will be planning the events for the year 2014. A brunch will be served at 9:00 followed by the planning meeting. New ideas are welcome on what you would like to see the UMW proceed with. The new officers will also be installed at this meeting.

CALENDAR

- 11/23 - Trustees Workday (9:00 am)
- 11/24 - Harvest Home Sunday (*donate canned goods*)
- 11/24 - Hanging of the Greens (*decorate the sanctuary between morning services, lunch following 11:00 service*)
- 11/27 - Community Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:30 pm *at the Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church*)
- 12/14 - UMW Cookie Sale (9:00 to 12:00 am)
- 12/15 - Christmas Concert (*special event featuring the choir, the praise band, the children's choir and others*)
- 12/18 - "The Koffee Klatch" (10:00 to noon)
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve (4:00 pm in FLC; *praise band*)
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve (8:00 pm in sanctuary; *choir*)

News From "THE KOFFEE KLATCH:

An Alzheimer's Cafe'

This holiday season The Koffee Klatch is celebrating the generosity of the many people who have shown their support to our efforts here at Chalfont UMC. Many church members have contributed their time, energy, finances, and baked goods to our monthly meetings. Without their participation, we would not be able to open our doors to those in our community who are living daily with the challenges of dementia. *Our volunteers are all examples of Christ's love in action. . .thank you!*

We also express our gratitude to our own United Methodist Women whose Dinner and Silent Auction raised funds for not only The Koffee Klatch, but for several worthwhile charitable organizations in our community.

Many thanks go out to The United Methodist Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; they have awarded us a \$2000.00 Dewees Foundation Grant to use toward the start up costs of The Koffee Klatch.

A special thank you also goes out to Charles Dickinson, a philanthropist from Pottstown, for his \$3000.00 contribution our Alzheimer's Cafe'.

These generous contributions will allow us to invest in printed brochures, banners, activity supplies, and additional promotional materials.

Spread the word: the next meeting of The Koffee Klatch will be on Wednesday, December 18th, from 10 a.m. to noon in our Family Life Center!

If you're interested in volunteering or would like information to pass on to someone who might like to attend, please see Pastor Erin or Joan Jensen or call the church office at 215-822-2807 and leave a message.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Thank you to everyone who participated in the planting, watering, harvesting and transporting of the produce to the Larder.

Here are the final totals of our harvest: 11 bunches of scallions, 11 bunches of radishes, 10 cabbage, 8 heads of Broccoli, 6 bunches of leaf lettuce, 3 heads lettuce, 1.5 peck of snow peas, 52 zucchini, 125 green peppers, 23 yellow squash, 55 eggplants, 1325 tomatoes, 19 cucumbers, 29 butternut squash, 15 lbs. purple snap beans, 6 bunches of basil, 3 bunches of oregano, 1 lb. bush beans & .25 peck green beans.

THE CHURCH MOUSE



It seems that when it starts getting cold outside and the leaves fall off the trees, a lot of different items can suddenly be found in the church. The other day while I was investigating the church I found there were trees in the building!! I asked Mom "Why are there trees in the building and why are they topped with stars?" Mom said that sometimes you can find trees with an angel placed on the top instead of a star. "But why?" She said that the star and angel remind us of the first Christmas when an angel appeared to the Shepherds and the star appeared to the Wise Men and pointed the way for them to find the baby Jesus. They remind us that we are to show people the way to Jesus. "This Christmas how will you show others Jesus' love?" If you happen to see me checking out one of the trees, let Pat know that you saw me, but some of my friends are also checking out the trees, so you need to tell her what color mouse you saw.

ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY GIVING

The men all have enough ties and does your mother really need another vase in her living room? Alternative Giving lets you do something good for people in need, but also lets your loved ones know that you are thinking of them this Christmas.

This year we are suggesting three needy places for Alternative Giving:

Heifer International sends domestic animals and crop plants to many parts of the world where people are starving for lack of food.

Americans for Native Americans (a Doylestown based organization) supports many programs for the people of the Southwest including backpacks of food for school children and help for Native American nursing students.

Moldova Children's School and Orphanage is a haven for the children of Moldova who are living in impoverished conditions.

... and to all a blessed and happy Christmas!

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STAFF DIRECTORY

REV. BARBARA SEEKFORD	Pastor
REV. KENNETH L. BEALE, SR.	Pastoral Care Minister
REV. ERIN MAURER	Deacon, Worship Leader
CRIS FRISCO	Director of Music
PATRICIA L. KERR	Administrative Assistant

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, November 24

(Harvest Home Sunday; Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary after 9:00 service; lunch after 11:00 service.)

Wednesday, November 27

(Thanksgiving Eve Community Service at Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church; Deacon Erin Maurer preaching)

Sunday, December 1

(1st Sunday in Advent)

Sunday, December 8

(2nd Sunday in Advent)

Saturday, December 14

(UMW Cookie Sale - 9:00 to 12:00 am)

Sunday, December 15

*(3rd Sunday in Advent;
Music Department Evening Concert)*

Sunday, December 22

(4th Sunday in Advent)

**Tuesday
DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**

4:00 PM

**(Family Life Center
with the Praise Band)**

and

8:00 PM

(Sanctuary with the choir)

**Both services will conclude
in Candlelight**